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PAPER CLIPPINGS

3 / ವಿಷಯ: DEPARTMENT/SUBJECT: Corruption case - Punjab C.M. son's.
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Punjab CM, son acquitted in multi-crore corruption case

Amarinder Singh's son-in-law also among 31 accused

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Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and 30 others accused in the multi-crore Ludhiana City Centre corruption case were on Wednesday acquitted by a court in Ludhiana.

Sessions Judge Gurbir Singh, while accepting the closure report moved by the State Vigilance Bureau, stated that no case of corruption had been made out against any of the accused.

Besides Capt. Amarinder, his son Raninder Singh and son-in-law Raminder Singh were also accused in the case.

'No evidence'

There was no evidence against any accused, the court ruled, adding that former chairman of the Improvement Trust Paramjit Singh also did not indulge in corruption, though he may be accused of disobeying the orders of his senior.



Amarinder Singh



Raninder Singh

"The court has accepted the closure report of the Vigilance Bureau and discharged all 31 accused in the case," said advocate Ravinder Abrol, who represented the case on behalf of the State.

In August 2017, the Bureau filed the closure report in the case. Ten years earlier, it had filed the FIR against the Punjab Chief Minister and others for alleged corruption.

It stated that by favouring a Delhi-based company for the proposed city centre project, the State exchequer suffered a loss of ₹1,144 crore.

The Ludhiana City Centre

project was announced and rolled out during Capt. Amarinder's previous term as Chief Minister between 2002 and 2007.

'Political victimisation'

Capt. Amarinder, who appeared before the court on Wednesday, told journalists that the verdict was a victory for him and others in their fight against what was a brazen act of political victimisation.

The truth had prevailed and their stand against the politically-motivated charges had been fully vindicated, he said. He had full confidence in the law, the Punjab Chief Minister said.